

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

From: "Larry L. Williard" <circuit@bigfoot.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/5/97 12:36pm
Subject: Re: Tax

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Mr. Ness:

I work at home and have 2 phone lines, one I use for personel communications and one just for faxes and internet. I think that this new tax is grosely unfair, I live in the country and only have one choice of phone companies and have to pay more than the average comsumerbecause there is no competition here. I would receive no added benifetfrom this tax only burden, The schools here already have free interetaccess provided through volenteers, such as the power companies and internet providers. A single home phone line witout any extras alredycost approx \$25.00 including tax, and my calling radius is approx 7 miles and 2000 people only. I beg you to reconsider this added tax. The internet is my only link with the outside world. This idea would also kill the volenteer spirite that exists in the rural communities throughout America.

Thank you

Larry Williard

Rt-2, Box 20AA
Brantley, Al
36009
334-527-8611

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1

From: Michele Stewart <mstewart@furtherdev.com>
To: "jquello@fcc.gov" <jquello@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/5/97 11:59am
Subject: Universal Service "modem tax" proposal

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

As a consumer and member of the Association of Online Professionals, I beg you not to approve this proposal until more information has been researched. I have more than one phone line in my home. Two for voice and two for modems. The approval of this unfair tax would cost me extra for 3 phones simply because they're there. Though I approve of making internet services available to schools and other non-profit organizations, this should not be done by demanding only a portion of the population pay a tax. Not only would your proposal have me paying up to \$3.50 for each additional line in my home, but my service provider would bear the brunt of the tax and my rates would increase.

I think the government has done enough to raise the cost of living without adding yet another tax before exhausting all other possibilities. The AOP and myself oppose the proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Please reconsider this proposal.

Michele Stewart

Further Development, Inc. Voice: 954-418-9400 (M-F, 12p-8p EST)
P.O. Box 821864 BBS: 954-418-8110
South Florida, FL 33082-1864 Fax: 954-426-2223
Developers of InterMail & InterEcho E-Mail: fdi@furtherdev.com
Fidonet: 1:369/35 or 1:359/102
Further West: 1-500-675-0049 (5pm-10pm Pacific) 1:143/238
On the Web: <http://www.furtherdev.com>
FTP: <ftp://furtherdev.com/pub>

CC: "Dave McClure - AOP - aop.org" <dave.mcclure@aop...

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
State Budget and Control Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DAVID M. BEASLEY, CHAIRMAN
GOVERNOR

RICHARD A. ECKSTROM
STATE TREASURER

EARLE E. MORRIS, JR.
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

P.O. BOX 12444
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
(803) 734-2320

JOHN DRUMMOND
CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HENRY E. BROWN, JR.
CHAIRMAN, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

LUTHER F. CARTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 814
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board Recommendations
on Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I would like to urge the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to implement promptly the general recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board relating to universal service support for K-12 schools and for libraries. There are a few minor details of the Joint Board's recommendations for school/library support that should be modified to make the program administratively more manageable. Specifically, the rules should expressly recognize that state agencies may file consolidated requests for universal service support on behalf of their schools and libraries, and the Universal Fund Administrator should be instructed to accept such consolidated filings. (South Carolina and other states have been in contact with the FCC's staff on these and other matters.) Overall, however, the Joint Board's recommendations are critical to the success of the combined efforts of federal, state and local governments to ensure that all of our children have access to the basic telecommunications resources necessary for enhanced learning and interaction with the burgeoning worldwide electronic information storehouse.

We in South Carolina have recognized for some time the tremendous importance of having our schools and libraries connected to the Internet. In 1996, at my behest, our legislature appropriated \$10 million to connect our K-12 schools and our libraries to the Internet. As of April 1, 1997, we had completed dedicated connections of approximately 620 schools and libraries. We expect to connect the remaining 697 schools and libraries by December, 1997.

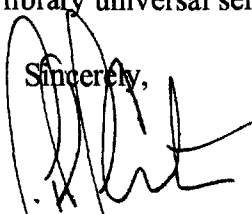
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But much more needs to be done in South Carolina and elsewhere. We need to train our teachers to bring the full potential of the Internet and other technologies into their classrooms. We need to acquire additional computers and related technology to ensure that our schools and libraries are adequately equipped to meet the needs of their respective student and user populations. We need to enhance the use of live video instruction capabilities (including interactive video conferencing) that have been pioneered by the South Carolina Educational Television System. And we need to ensure that every one of our students (especially those in the most disadvantaged school districts) has the maximum opportunity to use the educational tools made possible through computers and communications technology.

The school/library universal service proposals will go a long way toward helping us achieve our objectives. Although South Carolina already has committed to connect our schools and libraries to the Internet, the availability of universal service support will enable us to free up funds for the important related tasks listed above and many others that are essential to providing our children with a quality education.

We in South Carolina very much appreciate the support that you, the FCC, the Joint Board, Congress and the Administration have given to this endeavor. We urge the FCC to take the next step by promptly adopting rules that will implement the Joint Board's basic recommendations on school/library universal service support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. F. Carter', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Luther F. Carter
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Nielsen
State Superintendent of Education

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



May 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hunt, Chairman
FCC, 1919 M Street, NW Suite 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comments on the 1996 Telecommunications Act

Dear Chairman Hunt:

Our State Legislature and our University System Board of Trustees took bold steps in 1991 and 1994 in passing legislation creating a statewide rural health professions training program and in mandating that health professions students complete three months of clinical rotations in rural underserved communities. These rotations are completed in 163 rural health clinics, hospitals, providers offices, etc. in rural underserved communities. Some 340 rural providers serve as field preceptors for the 100 to 120 students who rotate per month in these areas.

Our programs and our rural providers are highly dependent on the telecommunications infrastructure to provide quality health care and education. This includes, in most cases, local-dial up access to the internet and exorbitant long distance charges.

We wholeheartedly endorse the recommendations forwarded to you by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources which are attached. Providing distance neutral rates and reduced access charges to rural providers will improve both service delivery and education in our state. Providing toll-free access for these providers to the internet will allow us to improve our communications and education for our students.

Your attention to these comments is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Hilda R. Heady in cursive.

Hilda R. Heady, Executive Director
West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships

Handwritten signature of W. Don Weston in cursive.

W. Don Weston, M.D.
Vice Chancellor, USWV

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**West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Summary of Recommendations
to the
West Virginia Public Service Commission
RE: Rural Health Care Providers, Universal Service and the 1996
Telecommunications Act**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Appropriate Rates

Provide distance neutral reduced rates and reduced access charges to rural health care providers for basic and/ or advanced telecommunications services.

2. Local Dial-Up Access

Local access to the Internet must be made available to rural health care providers at local toll-free rates.

3. Infrastructure and Cost

Provide for the cost of extending telecommunications infrastructure to rural communities that would include construction of new or upgrading existing infrastructure.

4. Scope of Available Services

- a. The scope of services should include telehealth services: the transmission of preventive health data, reports of epidemiological investigations, guidelines for delivery of preventive services, training material and professional notices, professional teleconsultation with two-way interactive audio and video, access to health data and information via the Internet and multi-point consultation for emergencies.

- b. Providers must be able to choose from a growing range of telecommunications services up to the 1.544 mbps ceiling for any health-related applications the provider deems necessary ranging from dial-up to ATM.

5. Definition of Rural Health Care Provider

The definition of rural health care provider should be broadly inclusive to embrace: hospitals, primary care, local health, nursing homes, personal care homes, behavioral health, home health, hospice, emergency medical services, medical schools and the Department of Health and Human Resources.

6. Designation of Rural Areas

Modification should be made to the Office of Management and Budget's designation of metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties to identify small towns and rural parts of metropolitan counties that do not have easy access to central areas.



Santa Maria-Bonita School District

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 220

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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DATE: 5/2/97 TIME: 10:20 a.m.

Number of pages (including this cover sheet): 2

TO (name): Reed Hundt, Chmn. FAX NO.: 202-418-2801

LOCATION (company, agency, firm and/or contact person):
Federal Communications Commission

FROM (name): Gail M. Tissier FAX NO.: (805) 928-6451

Department: Superintendent
SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 928-1783

Other Special
Instructions: _____



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Santa Maria-Bonita School District

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Gail M. Tissier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 235

May 1, 1997

SENT VIA FACSIMILE & U. S. MAIL

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 814
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District, located on the Central Coast of California, is involved in implementing its long-range technology plan. Because most of our schools are over 30 years old, each needs to be rewired to meet the demands of technology. We have gone to bid for the wiring of our classrooms and each time the cost has been prohibitive.

It is our understanding that on May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on the final rules for dispersing as much as \$2.25 billion in telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries. This truly is a miracle! Our schools drastically need this support to bring educational technology to our children to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our school board set aside some money, however, it is not enough to bring the infrastructure of educational technology to our students' classrooms. Also, if we use this money to wire our schools then there will be no money left to purchase the hardware and software necessary to integrate our curriculum with the wonderful software support systems that presently exist for children.

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District strongly encourages the FCC to approve the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for implementation of the discount plan to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Our school district has a very high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. These students need all the help and support that can be provided to assist them in reaching high academic standards. By approving the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations for implementation of the discount plan, you will greatly help bring about the academic success of our students.

Our students will truly be engaged in a global world of communications broadening their understanding of the world in which they live. Please make this miracle become a reality for our students by voting to approve the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Tissier
GAIL M. TISSIER, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

c
SMBSD Board of Education
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Walter Capps
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
State Superintendent Delaine Eastin
California Public Utilities Commission

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Student Success Is Our Business

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**NANUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

101 Church Street • Nanuet, NY 10954

Every Child A Winner

MARK S. MCNEILL, Ed.D.
Superintendent of SchoolsPHILIP M. SIONS
School Business Administrator
Phone: (914) 627-9881
Fax: (914) 623-1963

May 2, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Superintendent of schools for the Nanuet Union Free School District. On behalf of the residents of Nanuet, the Board of Education and the entire school community, I would like to express our appreciation of your efforts to insure that school districts such as Nanuet will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Implementation of the discount plan contained in the Telecommunications Act and promoted by the federal-State Joint board will guarantee that all schools - regardless of their financial condition - will be afforded the opportunity for Internet accessibility and distance learning capabilities.

Our district needs substantial discounts for our telecommunications services in the upcoming 1997-98 school year. I strongly urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

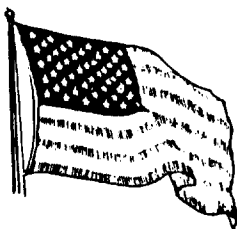
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Mark S. McNeill
Superintendent of Schools

MSM:cap

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CC 96-45

Springhill School - District #20

April 25, 1997

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MAY 5 1997

TO: Federal Communications Commission
FROM: Barbara R. Brown, Clerk, Springhill School Dr. #20
RE: "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount

It is important that all school districts and other educational institutions have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will afford all school districts the opportunity to connect with the Internet and enjoy the distance-learning opportunities it affords. The \$2.25 billion annually will bring the communication services directly to classrooms for the students' benefit. It is vital that internal classroom connections be included in the discounted prices.

Springhill School is a small one-room rural school in Gallatin County Montana which educates a dozen students and prepares them for the technological world in which they will learn, work and enjoy leisure time. Limited school funding necessitates that our communications system be affordable. Deep discounts for telecommunications services will enable our students to take advantage of the latest in communication opportunities.

Please support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal school services.

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LIBRARY



GREG PETERSON
PRINCIPAL

READY SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

10862 SPENCEVILLE ROAD, PENN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 95946
(916) 432-1118 • FAX: (916) 432-9473

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LARRY BABCOCK
SUPERINTENDENT

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MAY 5 1997

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We are writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. We are locally elected school board members from Ready Springs School District, and we would like to express our strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students.

The inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. Each element of the plan is vital, because we are preparing students to enter tomorrow's workforce.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is overdue. **Our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year.** We urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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Sincerely,



Victoria Oliver


Pam Wolfe


Clinton Patche


Robin McCrary


Dave Walker


Larry Babcock, Superintendent

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CC96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 5 1997

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create in formed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Murline C. Haymons

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CC 96-45

May 1, 1997

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Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

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MAY 5 1997

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Sincerely,

Kathy Willard

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

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Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Julie H. Hansen

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May 1, 1997

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Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Received by: [illegible]
[illegible]

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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Sincerely,

Lisa Cook
423 Hummingbird Lane
Macon Georgia 31055

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CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

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MAY 5 1997

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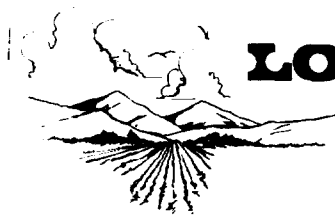
Sincerely,

Marcia Cravey

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LOST HILLS Union School District

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

JOHN R. BOGIE, Ed.D.
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

April 29, 1997

MAY 5 1997

TRUSTEES

LLOYD L. FEWELL, President
GERRY L. EVANS, Clerk
DONALD W. ELHOLM
SANTIAGO GAONA
WILLIAM C. RODEN

OFFICE LOCATIONS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14823 Office Lane
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-2626
Fax (805) 797-2580

LOST HILLS COOPERATIVE

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14835 Office Lane
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3007
Fax (805) 797-2580

LOST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14821 Primary Court
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3019
Fax (805) 797-3015

A. M. THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
20979 Lobos Court
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3011
Fax (805) 797-3015

Ms. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

The Board of Trustees of the Lost Hills Union School District would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Heretofore, our rural community has been unable to avail itself of access to the Information Superhighway due to the inordinately high costs involved in acquiring service.

If our students are to have access to this technology, deep discounts for telecommunication services must be gained this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


JOHN R. BOGIE, Ed.D.
District Superintendent

JRB/mh

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"Each child in the world is unique."



ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PEARL AVENUE
CHESWICK, PENNSYLVANIA 15024

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

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CC 96-45

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MAY 5 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W. Room 844
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services, including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Wasilak, Ph. D.
Superintendent

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Superintendent
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300

Springdale High School
501 Butler Road
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-8100

Acmetonia Elementary
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-6500

Collax Elementary
Collax at Rosslyn
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-7200

Business Office
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300

Los Angeles Unified School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 450 NORTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 3307, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051

LOS ANGELES PHONE: (213) 625-6451

SACRAMENTO PHONE: (916) 446-6641

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SIDNEY A. THOMPSON
Superintendent of Schools

RONALD PRESCOTT
*Associate Superintendent
Government Relations &
Legislation*

SANTIAGO JACKSON
*Assistant Superintendent
Legislation*

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 29, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 5 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

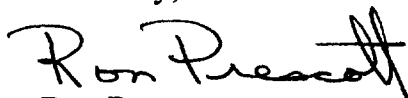
On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I would like to express our strong support for the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program, and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

Under the provisions of the telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan, even the poorest schools will be assured of access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. Telecommunications services will be brought directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. Each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program; the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. This program is absolutely essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue. To serve our students, we need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Prescott
Associate Superintendent

RP/tp

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April 30, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Honorable Rachelle B. Chong: Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Commissioner Chong:

RE: CC Docket 96-45: Universal Service to Schools and Libraries

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allows schools and libraries significant discounts for the telecommunications and **critical, non-telecommunications** services necessary to assure that **all** of our schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1966 with the clear intent of insuring that schools and libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telco and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter that helps not only our schools and libraries, but us all. A better educated community benefits everyone!

Sincerely,

Ron Stanley
Mary Stanley

Ron and Mary Stanley
555 Red Cypress Drive
Cary, Illinois 60013
(847)516-3110

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May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED
MAY 5 1997
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create in formed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Pamela Selph

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CC 96-48

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Shelly H. Schlenker

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Sincerely,

Barbara Moore

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CC 96-48

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Delia Smith

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